

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the allergen activity of rubber latex for use in a rubber latex article, comprising incorporating starch into the liquid rubber latex before forming the article.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the starch is a modified starch, and wherein the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 40%.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinizing the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal, and wherein the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 15%.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the starch is selected from the group consisting of potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch,

waxy rice starch and mixtures thereof, and wherein the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 5%.

42. (Currently Amended) A rubber latex article comprising natural rubber latex having a reduced allergen activity, comprising an amount of starch that is homogeneously distributed throughout the natural rubber latex, wherein said amount is maximally 10 wt.%, and wherein the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50% of the allergen activity of natural rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

43. (Previously Presented) The rubber latex article comprising rubber latex according to claim 42, wherein at least the surface contacting the skin of the user is fabricated from the said rubber latex.

44. (Previously Presented) The rubber latex article according to claim 43, wherein the article is a surgical glove.

45. (Previously Presented) The rubber latex article according to claim 43, wherein the article is a condom.

46. (Previously Presented) The rubber latex article according to claim 43, wherein the article is an inflatable balloon.

47. (Withdrawn) A surgical glove provided with a granular, low crystalline, preferably non-crystalline, starch as a donning powder at least on the surface of the glove to be contacting the skin of the user.

48. (Withdrawn) The surgical glove according to claim 47, wherein the low-crystalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1600

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49. (Withdrawn) The surgical glove according to claim 47, wherein the birefringence of the low-crystalline starch is less than 30% of native starch.

50. (Withdrawn) The surgical glove according to claim 47, wherein less than 75% of the low-crystalline starch is soluble in cold water, and further wherein the birefringence of the low-crystalline starch is less than 20% of native starch.

51. (Withdrawn) The surgical glove according to claim 47, wherein the starch is selected from the group consisting of potato starch, corn starch, rice starch, or waxy corn starch, and further wherein the birefringence of the low-crystalline starch is less than 5% of native starch.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the amount of starch is maximally 10 wt.%.

53. (Cancelled)